



# Mosquitofish

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Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) are live-bearing fresh water fish. These small fish are only 1-2 inches long, but they can eat several hundred mosquito larvae a day!



The District provides mosquitofish at no cost for control of mosquitoes in ponds, fountains, and abandoned swimming pools on their private property. Mosquitofish must NOT be placed in natural water sources where they can reach creeks and other waterways.

It is against California Department of Fish and Game regulations for private citizens to plant mosquitofish in waters of the State without a permit. (Title 14 CCR, Fish and Game Code, Section 1.63, Section 6400, and Section 238.5).

If you live in San Mateo County, you can submit a service request online or via phone for a technician to deliver mosquitofish to your property. If you live in San Francisco, you can stop by the District office to pick up mosquitofish. If you live elsewhere, check for your local district at [www.mvcac.org/about/member-agencies](http://www.mvcac.org/about/member-agencies)

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**(650) 344-8592 • [www.smcmvcd.org](http://www.smcmvcd.org)**

## Preparation

Before you get your mosquitofish, treat the water for chlorine and chloramine. Treatment kits can be purchased at aquarium or pet supply stores. Mosquitofish can live with koi and all varieties of pond goldfish. Bass, bluegill, and catfish will eat mosquito fish.

## Placement

When you get your mosquitofish home, place the container with the fish directly in the water for at least 20 minutes. When the temperature of the water in the container is about the same as the pool/pond/fountain water, release the fish.

## Feeding and Care

During the summer, mosquitofish should not be fed fish food. Only mosquitofish in a new pond with no natural food or mosquito larvae should be fed a small amount of fish food.

Mosquitofish can live in very cold/warm water. They are often found in shallow, unshaded regions, and adding rocks or other items for them to hide can be beneficial. The fish should survive through several seasons and will continue to reproduce and eat mosquito larvae.

### **A FEW FISH GO A LONG WAY**

Mosquitofish will die if too crowded, and they are efficient at reproducing to fit the space they are in.

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